

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 11 and 17 as anticipated by the Yamaguchi reference, rejected claim 12 as obvious over Yamaguchi in view of Mizutani, rejected claims 13, 14 and 18 as obvious over Yamaguchi in view of Schleusener et al., and allowed claims 15, 16 and 20.

Applicants note that the cover sheet form PTOL-326 identifies the claims 11 – 14 and 17 – 19 as objected to, with no claims being listed as rejected. Applicants also note that the claim 19 is not identified as rejected, but is discussed in part 5 of the action with the rejection of the claims 13, 14 and 18. The present response is being prepared with the understanding that the form PTOL-326 should have listed the claims in box 6, not box 7, and that claim 19 should have been listed with the rejection of claims 13, 14 and 18.

The claims 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18 and 19 have been cancelled without prejudice, so that the rejection is now moot. The remaining claims 16, 16 and 20 have been allowed, so that the application is now in form for allowance. No other issues have been raised by the Examiner. Accordingly, early allowance of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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on March 11, 2004.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "T. H. Robbins", written over a horizontal line.

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